



Chamber of Commerce

Your Business Advocate Since 1931

SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 1

DATE 1-27-09

BILL NO. SB 218

27 January, 2009

To the Senators of the Senate Taxation Committee:

The Montana Chamber of Commerce urges you to pass SB 218, which would provide a tax credit for employers of members of the National Guard and Reserve. I regret I could not be there in person, but am attending the Economic Outlook seminar.

As you all know, the fine men and women in our National Guard and Reserve have been called to serve our country many times this past decade at home and abroad. Whether it was in Iraq, Afghanistan, or some domestic emergency, many in the Reserve or National Guard have made huge sacrifices for our country. We can't thank them enough for their service.

Although it doesn't even come close to the sacrifice borne by the servicemen and women, their employers also go through some hardship when deployments happen and leave a position unfilled or require employers to find temporary replacements. A \$500 tax credit would be a show of support for these employers who are doing their best to both provide jobs to these men and women and keep their businesses and our economy going.

Granted, most of our employer members willingly do this already and are not asking for this consideration. And frankly, in these tough economic times, there are hard decisions to make. You certainly have the fiscal impact to consider. Yet, if there is a possibility to support this bill, it would be acknowledged and appreciated.

Please consider supporting SB 218. I would be happy to respond to any questions or comments when available.

Sincerely,

Webb Scott Brown
President/CEO